

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NCES TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (TRP) ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION MEETING

April 24 and 25
One Washington Circle Hotel
Washington, DC

Final confirmation will be needed by March 16th
For more information, contact Kathleen Mullen at
kmullen@mprinc.com

FOR IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION SEE THE TRP WEBSITE

Still haven't logged on to the TRP website?
Lost your instructions for how to do so?

Send an email to Karen Levesque at
klevesque@mprinc.com

Agenda items for the third annual meeting of the TRP include discussions of upcoming publications and plans for analysis of data to be released in the next year. Reports in progress are (1) *High School Course-taking Trends: 1982–1998*; (2) *Trends in the Participation of Special Populations: 1982–1998*; and (3) *Adult Education and Work*. TRP members will receive further information about materials to review before the meeting.

TRP members should view the new TRP website and adopt at least one NCES survey—"experts" will be called upon for review purposes as needed. If you need information about accessing the TRP website, send an email to Karen Levesque at klevesque@mprinc.com.



UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The ED Tabs report *Occupational Programs at the Secondary and Post-secondary Levels* has undergone NCES technical review and is being prepared for adjudication. Volunteers from the TRP are welcome to serve on the adjudication panel. (Contact Lisa Hudson, lisa_hudson@ed.gov, if you are interested.)



LATEST NEWS

For the first time in a number of years, *The Condition of Education 2001* will include an indicator on high school occupational coursetaking trends. It highlights some findings from the upcoming 1982–1998 trends report. The 2001 *Condition* will be available on the web in early June.

The next edition of the *Education Statistics Quarterly* will highlight the DOVE system, with invited commentaries from Marsha Silverberg (National Assessment of Vocational Education) and Gary Hoachlander (MPR Associates).

A new *Stats in Brief*, *Changes in High School Vocational Coursetaking in a Larger Perspective* is now on the web. To download go to: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001026>. Hard copies will be distributed at a later date. (See Voced Fast Facts in next column for highlights from the Brief.)

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education is supporting an NCES Fast Response Survey System on career counseling.



ON-GOING PROJECTS

Work has started on two new *Stats in Briefs*: (1) an examination of the persistence of workers in college, using data from the Beginning Postsecondary Student 1996/98 longitudinal study; and (2) an examination of the distribution of vocational education offerings, using Fast Response Survey System data about vocational programs collected from high schools.

VOCED FAST FACTS

With the increase in academic course requirements from the 1980s to the mid-1990s, many high school students increased their total credits earned rather than sacrifice vocational coursetaking. Students in 1998 earned an average of 3.5 more total credits than in 1982 and only decreased their credits in vocational classes by 0.7. The primary shift in coursetaking between 1982 and 1998 was from general education preparation to a college preparatory curriculum, with a relatively small decline in the percentage of students concentrating in vocational education compared to changes in other areas.

SOURCE: D. Hurst and L. Hudson, *Changes in High School Vocational Coursetaking in a Larger Perspective*, NCES 2001–026 (Washington DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, October 2000).



NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE) News.

Using existing data from NCES and other sources, the Institute on Education and the Economy at Columbia University is conducting a study about the participation, coursetaking patterns, and education and labor market outcomes of postsecondary occupational students. Changing trends in who participates, their reasons for participation, and the form that participation takes are all important contextual information for understanding the impact of postsecondary occupational education. It is anticipated that results of this study will be part of the NAVE report in 2002.

National Employer Survey (NES). Data from the 2000 NES will be available soon for analysis. The National School-to-Work Office and the NAVE are planning analyses. The survey instrument can be found on our TRP website.